

30 July 1973

Ms. Louise F. Bilebof
Administrative Editor
Dictionary of American History
597 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Bilebof:

I am enclosing a short contribution for the Dictionary of American History as requested by you.

I hope we have followed the style so that your editors will be put to a minimum of trouble. Will you kindly not attach any author's name to it, particularly not mine or the Director's? As we noted earlier, we will waive the honorarium.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angus MacLean Thuermer

Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

Enclosure

Central Intelligence Agency, The. Distinct shortcomings in the evaluation, dissemination, and coordination of U.S. intelligence were revealed as the result of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. Various attempts at improvement were made during World War II, particularly through the establishment of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). After the war, President Truman felt that contradictory intelligence information was being received by his office from too many individual government departments in a completely uncoordinated manner. Therefore, by Executive Directive of 22 January 1946, he established the Central Intelligence Group for the coordination, correlation, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence relating to the national security, as well as to perform such other related foreign intelligence activities as were subsequently assigned. These same functions became a part of the legislative charter of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which was established in succession to the Central Intelligence Group by the National Security Act of 1947.

The Act established the position of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), who, as the President's principal advisor on foreign intelligence, heads the U.S. Intelligence Board (composed of the heads of the principal intelligence agencies of the government) and also is the Director of CIA. As DCI,

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he prepares and coordinates National Intelligence Estimates required for the formulation of national security policy. The CIA does not make policy; it simply provides the evaluated factual data on the basis of which the senior policy makers of the government may make informed decisions. The DCI is also charged by the President to prepare the annual consolidated program budget for the Intelligence Community to ensure coordinated use of national intelligence resources.

The National Security Act of 1947 specifically places on the DCI the responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. This provision is of great importance, for it is the protection of intelligence sources and methods, rather than the information itself, which generally requires secrecy, lest an important source be lost forever. Another provision in the Act directs that CIA shall have no internal security functions. The latter is properly the function of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whereas CIA operates in the field of foreign intelligence.

CIA by statute is under the direction of the National Security Council. Its functions are described in broad legislative terms by the Congress and include the clandestine collection of foreign intelligence through espionage and other means. Developments in the technological field,

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including reconnaissance aircraft and satellites, have been of increasing importance as a method of intelligence collection since the deployment of the U-2 in the mid-1950s.

[The National Security Act of 1947; The Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949; A.W. Dulles, The Craft of Intelligence; L.B. Kirkpatrick, U.S. Intelligence Community.]

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intelligence collection since the ^{deployment} development of the U-2 aircraft and other advanced reconnaissance vehicles beginning in the mid-1950s. ~~In latter years, the world situation has also required CIA to focus considerable attention on the halting of international traffic in narcotics, hijackings and acts of violence, and international economic intelligence.~~

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